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for chewing. —*intr. Dentistry.* To close so that the cusps fit together. Used of the teeth of the upper and lower jaws. [Latin *occlūdere* : *ob-*, intensive pref.; see OB- + *claudere*, to close.] —**oc·clud′ent** *adj.*

occluded front (ə-klōō′dĭd) *n. Meteorology.* The front formed when a cold front occludes a warm front.

oc·clu·sal (ə-klōō′zəl, -səl) *adj.* Of or relating to occlusions of the teeth, especially the chewing or biting surfaces: *occlusal wear.*

oc·clu·sion (ə-klōō′zhən) *n.* **1.a.** The process of occluding. **b.** Something that occludes. **2.** *Medicine.* An obstruction or a closure of a passageway or vessel. **3.** *Dentistry.* The alignment of the teeth of the upper and lower jaws when brought together. **4.** *Meteorology.* **a.** The process of occluding air masses. **b.** An occluded front. **5.** *Linguistics.* Closure at some point in the vocal tract that blocks the flow of air in the production of an oral or a nasal stop. [From Latin *occlūsus*, past participle of *occlūdere*, to occlude. See OCCLUDE.]

oc·clu·sive (ə-klōō′sĭv, -zĭv) *adj.* Occluding or tending to occlude. —**occlusive** *n. Linguistics.* An oral or a nasal stop.

oc·cult (ə-kŭlt′, ŏk′ŭlt′) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or dealing with supernatural influences, agencies, or phenomena. **2.** Beyond the realm of human comprehension; inscrutable. **3.** Available only to the initiate; secret: *occult lore.* See Synonyms at **mysterious.** **4.** Hidden from view; concealed. **5.a.** *Medicine.* Detectable only by microscopic examination or chemical analysis, as a minute blood sample. **b.** Not accompanied by readily detectable signs or symptoms: *occult carcinoma.* —**occult** *n.* Occult practices or techniques: *a student of the occult.* —**occult** (ə-kŭlt′) *v.* **-cult·ed, -cult·ing, -cults.** —*tr.* **1.** To conceal or cause to disappear from view. **2.** *Astronomy.* To conceal by occultation: *The moon occulted Mars.* —*intr.* To become concealed or extinguished at regular intervals: *a lighthouse beacon that occults every 45 seconds.* [Latin *occultus*, secret, past participle of *occulere*, to cover over. See **kel-**[1] in Appendix.] —**oc·cult′ly** *adv.* —**oc·cult′ness** *n.*

oc·cul·ta·tion (ŏk′ŭl-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of occulting or the state of being occulted. **2.** *Astronomy.* **a.** The passage of a celestial body across a line between an observer and another celestial object, as when the moon moves between the earth and the sun in a solar eclipse. **b.** The progressive blocking of light, radio waves, or other radiation from a celestial source during such a passage. **c.** An observational technique for determining the position or radiant structure of a celestial source so occulted: *a lunar occultation of a quasar.* [Middle English *occultacion*, from Latin *occultātiō, occultātiōn-*, from *occultātus*, past participle of *occultāre*, frequentative of *occulere*, to conceal. See OCCULT.]

oc·cult·ism (ə-kŭl′tĭz′əm, ŏk′ŭl-) *n.* **1.** The study of the supernatural. **2.** A belief in occult powers and the possibility of bringing them under human control. —**oc·cult′ist** *n.*

oc·cu·pan·cy (ŏk′yə-pən-sē) *n., pl.* **-cies.** **1.a.** The act of occupying or the condition of being occupied. **b.** The state of being an occupant or a tenant. **2.a.** The period during which one owns, rents, or uses certain premises or land. **b.** The use to which something occupied is put: *a building for commercial occupancy.* **3.** *Law.* The act of taking possession of previously unowned property with the intent of obtaining the right to own it.

oc·cu·pant (ŏk′yə-pənt) *n.* **1.** One that occupies a position or place: *the occupant of the honorary professorial chair; the occupants of a beehive.* **2.** One who has certain legal rights to or control over the premises occupied; a tenant or an owner. **3.** *Law.* One that is the first to take possession of something previously unowned.

oc·cu·pa·tion (ŏk′yə-pā′shən) *n. Abbr.* **occ.** **1.a.** An activity that serves as one's regular source of livelihood; a vocation. **b.** An activity engaged in especially as a means of passing time; an avocation. **2.a.** The act or process of holding or possessing a place. **b.** The state of being held or possessed. **3.a.** Invasion, conquest, and control of a nation or territory by foreign armed forces. **b.** The military government exercising control over an occupied nation or territory. [Middle English *occupacioun*, from Old French *occupacion*, from Latin *occupātiō, occupātiōn-*, from *occupātus*, past participle of *occupāre*, to occupy. See OCCUPY.]

oc·cu·pa·tion·al (ŏk′yə-pā′shə-nəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or caused by engagement in a particular occupation: *occupational hazards.* —**oc′cu·pa′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

occupational disease *n.* A disease, such as byssinosis or black lung, resulting from the conditions of a person's work, trade, or occupation.

occupational medicine *n.* The branch of medicine that deals with the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries occurring at work or in specific occupations.

occupational therapy *n. Abbr.* **OT** The use of productive or creative activity in the treatment or rehabilitation of physically or emotionally disabled people. —**occupational therapist** *n.*

oc·cu·py (ŏk′yə-pī′) *tr.v.* **-pied, -py·ing, -pies.** **1.** To fill up (time or space): *a lecture that occupied three hours.* **2.** To dwell or reside in. **3.** To hold or fill (an office or a position). **4.** To seize possession of and maintain control over by or as if by conquest. **5.** To engage, employ, or busy (oneself). [Middle English *occupien*, alteration of Old French *occuper*, from Latin *occupāre*, to seize : *ob-*, intensive pref.; see OB- + *capere*, to take; see **kap-** in Appendix.] —**oc′cu·pi′er** *n.*

oc·cur (ə-kûr′) *intr.v.* **-curred, -cur·ring, -curs.** **1.** To take place; come about. See Synonyms at **happen.** **2.** To be found to exist or appear: *Heavy rains occur during a summer monsoon.* **3.** To come to mind: *The idea never occurred to me.* [Latin *occurrere* : *ob-*, toward; see OB- + *currere*, to run; see **kers-** in Appendix.]

oc·cur·rence (ə-kûr′əns) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of occurring. **2.** Something that takes place. —**oc·cur′rent** *adj.*

SYNONYMS: *occurrence, happening, event, incident, episode, circumstance.* These nouns all refer to something that takes place or comes to pass. *Occurrence* and *happening* are the most general: *an everyday occurrence; a happening of no great importance. Event* usually signifies a notable occurrence: *The events of the day are reported on the evening news.* "Great *events* make me quiet and calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves" (Victoria). *Incident* may apply to a minor occurrence: *Errors are inescapable incidents in the course of scientific research.* The term may also refer to a distinct event of sharp identity and significance: *His debut at Carnegie Hall was the first of a succession of exciting incidents in his life.* An *episode* is an incident in the course of a progression or within a larger sequence: *"Happiness was but the occasional episode in a general drama of pain"* (Thomas Hardy). *Circumstance* in this comparison denotes a particular incident or occurrence: *"What schoolboy of fourteen is ignorant of this remarkable circumstance?"* (Macaulay).

o·cean (ō′shən) *n.* **1.** *Abbr.* **oc.** The entire body of salt water that covers more than 70 percent of the earth's surface. **2.** Often **Ocean.** *Abbr.* **O, O., Oc.** Any of the principal divisions of the ocean, including the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, their southern extensions in Antarctica, and the Arctic Ocean. **3.** A great expanse or amount: *"that ocean of land which is Russia"* (Henry A. Kissinger). [Middle English *occean*, from Old French, from Latin *ōceanus*, from Greek *Ōkeanos*, the god Oceanus, a great river encircling the earth.]

o·cean·ar·i·um (ō′shə-nâr′ē-əm) *n., pl.* **-i·ums** or **-i·a** (-ē-ə). A large aquarium for the study or display of marine life.

o·cea·naut (ō′shə-nôt′, -nŏt′) *n.* See **aquanaut.**

o·cean·front (ō′shən-frŭnt′) *n.* Land bordering an ocean: *Condominiums crowd the oceanfront.* —*attributive.* Often used to modify another noun: *oceanfront cottages; oceanfront promenades.*

o·cean·go·ing (ō′shən-gō′ĭng) *adj.* Made or used for ocean voyages.

O·ce·an·i·a (ō′shē-ăn′ē-ə, -ā′nē-ə, -ä′nē-ə). The islands of the southern, western, and central Pacific Ocean, including Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The term is sometimes extended to encompass Australia, New Zealand, and the Malay Archipelago. —**O′ce·an′i·an** *adj. & n.*

o·ce·an·ic (ō′shē-ăn′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to the ocean: *"Like many oceanic islands, Bermuda was originally free of all mammals except the bat"* (Dwight Holing). **2.** Produced by or living in an ocean, especially in the open sea rather than in shallow coastal waters. **3.** Resembling an ocean in expanse; vast: *oceanic steppes.*

O·ce·a·nid (ō-sē′ə-nĭd) *n., pl.* **O·ce·an·i·des** (ō′sē-ăn′ĭ-dēz′). *Greek Mythology.* Any of the ocean nymphs believed to be the daughters of Oceanus and Tethys. [Greek *ōkeanis, ōkeanid-*, from *Ōkeanos*, Oceanus.]

o·cean·og·ra·phy (ō′shə-nŏg′rə-fē) *n. Abbr.* **oceanog.** The exploration and scientific study of the ocean and its phenomena. Also called *oceanology.* —**o′cean·og′ra·pher** *n.* —**o′cean·o·graph′ic** (ō′shə-nə-grăf′ĭk), **o′cean·o·graph′i·cal** *adj.* —**o′cean·o·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

o·cean·ol·o·gy (ō′shə-nŏl′ə-jē) *n.* See **oceanography.** —**o′cean·o·log′ic** (ō′shə-nə-lŏj′ĭk), **o′cean·o·log′i·cal** (-ĭ-kəl) *adj.* —**o′cean·o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* —**o′cean·ol′o·gist** *n.*

ocean perch *n.* See **rosefish.**

O·cean·side (ō′shən-sīd′). A city of southern California north-northwest of San Diego. It is a seaside resort and trade center.

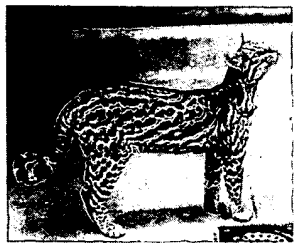
ocean sunfish *n.* A marine fish *(Mola mola)* with a large globular body, found in warm and temperate seas. Also called *mola.*

O·ce·a·nus (ō-sē′ə-nəs) *n. Greek Mythology.* A Titan god of the outer sea encircling the earth and the father of the Oceanides and the river gods.

oc·el·lat·ed (ŏs′ə-lā′tĭd, ō′sə-, ō-sĕl′ā′-) also **oc·el·late** (-lāt′) *adj.* **1.** Having an ocellus or ocelli. **2.** Resembling an ocellus. **3.** Having spots. [Latin *ocellātus*, having little eyes, from *ocellus*, diminutive of *oculus*, eye. See OCELLUS.] —**oc′el·la′tion** *n.*

o·cel·lus (ō-sĕl′əs) *n., pl.* **o·cel·li** (ō-sĕl′ī′). **1.** A small simple eye, found in many invertebrates, usually consisting of a few sensory cells and a single lens. **2.** A marking that resembles an eye, as on the tail feathers of a male peacock; an eyespot. [Latin, diminutive of *oculus*, eye. See **okʷ-** in Appendix.] —**o·cel′lar** (ō-sĕl′ər) *adj.*

oc·e·lot (ŏs′ə-lŏt′, ō′sə-) *n.* A nocturnal wildcat *(Felis pardalis* or *Leopardus pardalis)* of the brush and forests of the southwest United States and Central and South America, having a grayish or yellow coat with black spots. [French, from Nahuatl *ocelotl.*]



ocelot
Felis pardalis

o·cher or **o·chre** (ō′kər) *n.* **1.** Any of several earthy mineral oxides of iron occurring in yellow, brown, or red and used as pigments. **2.** *Color.* A moderate orange yellow, from moderate or deep orange to moderate or strong yellow. [Middle English *oker,*